

fathers fought our war of independence from Great Britain and obtained for the thirteen British colonies a status of independence.

Since that time the struggles of others to free themselves of tyranny and set up governments in accordance with their wishes have found sympathy in this country. We believe sincerely in governments of the people, by the people and for the people, as it has been said, and we feel a strong tie of friendship and communion with other peoples *who share our beliefs but are denied the privilege of exercising them.*

The independence of Estonia, together with her two sister states on the Baltic, Latvia and Lithuania, was ardently supported by the people of the United States at the conclusion of World War I. Her struggle to maintain autonomy in the years between the two great world conflicts was applauded by Americans, and a feeling of deep sadness swept over us when the three little nations, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, fell before the might of Nazi tyranny, on the other hand, and Communist tyranny on the other. And while our government, for reasons of international policy, may not offer recognition to aims of Estonians, Latvians and Lithuanians for independence, I know that an overwhelming majority of American people applaud the efforts of these Baltic peoples, and in their homelands and elsewhere, to rekindle the flames of liberty and independence.

On February 24, this forty-eighth anniversary of the proclaiming of Estonia as an independent republic, it is a pleasure to me, on behalf of the people of my State, to greet you who have ties of allegiance with Estonia and are keeping up the fight to restore her independence.